

October 13, 2021

**RE:** Suggested Masking at North Cape

Dear North Cape Families,

We appreciate your support in working with the District through this recent COVID surge. After evaluating the current local circumstances and case numbers, the District will be implementing the following changes. Below you will find explanations, rationale, and links that should be beneficial in helping guide you through family decisions related to the pandemic.

### **Masks**

- At North Cape, masks are highly suggested during community peaks above 100 per 100,000 COVID-19 cases and suggested when cases are below 100 per 100,000. Data can be found [here](#) in the map section/school district tab and utilizing Waterford WUHS boundary. Click on the third bullet [Cases and deaths maps by county and census tract, municipality, school district, and zip code](#) under “Jump to Specific COVID-19 Chart”.

If a positive COVID-19 case is identified in a school classroom, the school will notify the families in that classroom regarding a likely exposure and suggest mask wearing for 14 days since last exposure of the positive COVID-19 case. The process of notifying North Cape families of a “likely exposure” will not be altered until 5 weeks after COVID-19 vaccine availability for ages 12 and under.

Masks are welcomed for staff, students and community members, year round in school settings regardless of pandemic or endemic. At times, someone may be asked to remove their mask for identification purposes.

***This change at North Cape does not affect the current federal mandate for masking on buses which is in effect through 01/2022.***

**Rationale:** There have been declining cases at North Cape. Other school wide mitigation measures will remain in place such as: HVAC performance, hand sanitizer, encouraging and practicing proper hygiene etiquette, effectively utilizing classroom space, and keeping sick children home until well.

North Cape will: provide weekly updates (minimum every Tuesday) on COVID-19 cases in the district by utilizing the WGSD [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). The dashboard will remain active until [WUHS District boundary data](#) falls below 100 cases per 100,000. If cases rise above 100 per 100,000, North Cape will resume the dashboard.

Resources: <https://crchd.com/covid-19> <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>  
<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>  
<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP%20and%20CHA%20-%20Children%20and%20COVID-19%20State%20Data%20Report%2010.7%20FINAL.pdf> (10/7/2021 Report)

## **Quarantine**

Quarantine is a parent/family option. Quarantine should be determined by the family through evaluating unique family dynamics, acute/chronic medical needs, COVID-19 vaccination history, and COVID-19 infection history. North Cape encourages families to utilize the following information to guide your decisions.

**Rationale:** North Cape recognizes family dynamics in medical decisions related to COVID-19 and recognizes periods of rapid test shortages, potential lag time in PCR test results, and the limited testing supplies and availability of the North Cape health team members to conduct on-site testing. North Cape also recognizes the increase in other childhood illnesses and other respiratory illnesses that are currently circulating in Wisconsin. Last updated [Wisconsin Weekly Respiratory Report September 18th, 2021.](#)

A **Close Contact** is defined as any of the following:

- Closer than 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more total in a day
- Direct exposure to coughs, sneezes, or other bodily fluids
- Direct physical contact with someone e.g. hug, kiss, handshake
- Living or having spent the night with someone

Source: <https://crchd.com/covid-19#Contact>

### **For Consideration When Deciding on Quarantine:**

- “CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.” ([source](#))
- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. With this strategy, residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%.
- When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7. With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 5% with an upper limit of about 12%. [Source](#)
- If a student or staff member who’s been fully vaccinated, or was previously infected with COVID-19 in the last 90 days since last contact with a positive COVID-19 case, quarantine is not necessary. North Cape encourages staff and families to utilize this [link](#) for more information on

how to protect yourself after a close contact with COVID-19 when fully vaccinated or this [link](#) if you've been previously infected with COVID-19.

- In both quarantine cases, parents are encouraged to continue [symptom monitoring](#) and masking in the school environment through Day 14 since last contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

## Isolation

North Cape will adhere to the current isolation guidelines (testing positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status) based upon the information from the Central Racine County Health Department.

The below information was obtained from [CRCHD](#).

- Isolate at home
  - What is isolation? Please see [DHS: COVID-19 Diagnosed or Close Contact?](#)
  - How long do you need to isolate? Please see [DHS: Isolation Release Times](#)
  - How do you isolate and not infect others in the home? Please see [CDC: Households Living in Close Quarters](#)
  - Do not go to work, school, or other public areas; restrict activities outside of your home, except to get medical care.
- Identify and notify your close contacts
  - Tell them you have tested positive and that they should stay home for 14 days starting the day after their last exposure to you. **(North Cape statement: please note this is a CRCHD suggestion based upon their most up-to-date guidelines. Workplaces and schools may have different guidelines and protocols. Please advise close contacts to review quarantine guidelines based upon their municipality).**  
Please see [Next Steps: I tested positive for COVID-19. What can I do to help notify my close contacts of their exposure?](#).
- Notify those who need to know such as your workplace, school, and daycare.
- Answer the phone call from your local health department.
- You do not need to be tested again if you have recently had a positive test. Your test may be positive for many weeks after you recover. You do not need a negative test to stop isolating.

*The above protocol is subject to change based upon school district infection data along with federal, state and local lawful requirements.*